

Message Text

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S/S O:PJOHNSON

S: LEAGLEBURGER

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O 300057Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179440

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: CISCO TWO

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA 9047, (B) ASMARA 645

1. DEPARTMENT DISTURBED BY EPMG'S REFUSAL THUS FAR TO BROADCAST FAMILIES' APPEALS, WHICH APPEARS TO REFLECT EPMG SUSPICION THAT CAMPBELL AND HARRELL WERE SYMPATHETIC TO ELF/PLF AND MAY IN SOME DEGREE HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLICES IN THEIR OWN ABDUCTION. WHILE WE CANNOT BE SURE OURSELVES THAT THERE IS NOT SOME TRUTH IN THIS, FACT REMAINS THAT AS FAR AS WE KNOW CAMPBELL AND HARRELL WERE FORCIBLY SEIZED AND ARE BEING HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL AND VERY POSSIBLY IN DANGER. ACCORDINGLY, WHATEVER EPMG MAY SUSPECT, IT REMAINS RESPONSIBLE AS HOST GOVERNMENT TO DO EVERYTHING APPROPRIATE TO FIND AND RESCUE CAMPBELL AND HARRELL, JUST AS USG REMAINS RESPONSIBLE TO COUNSEL AND SUPPORT EPMG'S
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EFFORTS.

2. RE REF B, CONCUR IN ASMARA'S RECOMMENDATION THAT CONTACT WITH THE ZEMUIS NOT BE PURSUED. ALSO CONCUR IN CONGEN'S PLAN TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN X AND Y, ASSUMING CONGEN CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THIS COULD BE PRODUCTIVE. WE ASSUME THAT WITH ABANDONMENT OF

PLAN TO PURSUE CONTACT WITH Y AND THE TWO ZEMUIS, CONGEN PERCEIVES NO USEFUL ROLE FOR A CISCO REPRESENTATIVE ALREADY IN ASMARA, OR ONE SENT FROM US, AT THIS JUNCTURE. PLEASE CONFIRM.

3. TWO WEEKS HAVE NOW PASSED SINCE CAMPBELL'S AND HARRELL'S ABDUCTION WITHOUT ANY DIRECT OR AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION ON WHO HOLDS THEM OR WHAT MAY BE DEMANDED FOR THEIR RELEASE. FAMILIES HERE UNDERSTANDABLY INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT. UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES OBJECTION, IT SHOULD APPROACH EPMG AT LEVEL IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE AND CONVEY USG'S DISQUIET OVER SITUATION, DRAWING ON PARA 1 ABOVE AS APPROPRIATE. SPECIFIC INFORMATION SHOULD BE SOUGHT ON WHAT, IF ANY, SPECIFIC MEASURES EPMG IS PURSUING AND WITH WHAT PROSPECTS, IN ITS VIEW, OF SUCCESS.

4. FOR ASMARA; REQUEST INFORMATION ON CAMPBELL'S AND HARRELL'S WIVES' SITUATION AND MORALE FOR TRANSMISSION TO FAMILIES HERE. INGERSOLL

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